

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 15, 16, 44, 45, 68, 69, 96, 97, 118, 119, 136, and 137.

Please amend claims 1, 17, 21, 23, 25, 30, 46, 49, 50, 51, 56, 70, 74, 76, 78, 83, 98, 100, 101, 102, 106, 120, 124, 125, 126, 138, 140, and 141, as follows:

1. (Once Amended) An enforcement architecture for digital rights management, wherein the architecture enforces rights in protected digital content, the architecture comprising:

a content server for distributing the digital content;

a license server for issuing at least one digital license

corresponding to and separate from the digital content; and

a computing device for receiving the distributed digital content and for receiving and storing any digital license corresponding to the digital content, the computing device having:

a rendering application for rendering the digital content; and

a Digital Rights Management (DRM) system for being invoked by the rendering application upon such rendering application attempting to render the digital content, the DRM system for determining whether a right to render the

digital content in the manner sought exists based on any digital license stored in the computing device and corresponding to the digital content,

wherein the license server issues a digital license to the DRM system only if the license server trusts such DRM system to abide by the license, and

wherein the content server distributes the digital content in an encrypted form, and wherein the DRM system includes a trusted black box for performing decryption and encryption functions for such DRM system.

17. (Once Amended) The architecture of claim 1, wherein the black box includes a unique public / private key pair for performing the decryption and encryption functions.

21. (Once Amended) The architecture of claim 1, wherein the black box includes a version number.

23. (Once Amended) The architecture of claim 1, wherein the black box includes a certifying authority signature as provided by an approved certifying authority.

25. (Once Amended) The architecture of claim 1, wherein each digital license corresponding to the digital content includes a description of the rights

conferred by the license, and wherein the DRM system includes a trusted license evaluator for evaluating the rights description and allowing rendering of the digital content by the rendering application only if such rendering is in accordance with the rights description of the license.

30. (Once Amended) A method for implementing digital rights management, wherein the method enforces rights in protected digital content, the method comprising:

distributing the digital content from a content server to a computing device of a user;

receiving the distributed digital content at the computing device;

attempting to render the digital content by way of a rendering application;

invoking, by the rendering application, a Digital Rights Management (DRM) system upon such rendering application attempting to render the digital content;

determining, by the DRM system, whether a right to render the digital content in the manner sought exists based on any digital license stored in the computing device and corresponding to the digital content; and

if the right does not exist:

requesting from a license server a digital license that

provides such right and that corresponds to and is separate from the digital content;

issuing, by the license server, the digital license to the DRM system;

receiving, by the computing device, the issued digital license corresponding to the digital content from the license server; and

storing the received digital license on the computing device, wherein the issuing step comprises issuing, by the license server, the digital license to the DRM system only if the license server trusts such DRM system to abide by the license, and

wherein the distributing step comprises distributing, by the content server, the digital content in an encrypted form, and further comprising employing a trusted black box in the DRM system to perform decryption and encryption functions for such DRM system.

46. (Once Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the black box includes a public / private key pair, and wherein the requesting a digital license step comprises including in the request the black box public key, and further comprising encrypting, by the license server, at least a portion of the digital license according to the black box public key prior to issuance of such license, thereby binding such license to such black box.

49. (Once Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the black box includes a version number, and wherein the requesting a digital license step comprises including in the request the version number of the black box, and further comprising:

determining, by the license server, prior to issuance of the license whether the version number of the black box is acceptable; and

upon determining that the version number of the black box is not acceptable, the license server refusing to issue the license until the black box is updated, the architecture further comprising a black box server for providing an updated black box to the DRM system.

50. (Once Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the black box includes a certifying authority signature as provided by an approved certifying authority, and wherein the requesting a digital license step comprises including the certifying authority signature, the license server determining prior to issuance of the license whether the certifying authority signature is valid.

51. (Once Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the issuing the digital license step comprises including with the digital license a description of the rights conferred by the license, and further comprising:

evaluating, by a trusted license evaluator of the DRM system, the rights description; and

allowing rendering of the digital content by the rendering application only if such rendering is in accordance with the rights description of the license.

56. (Once Amended) An enforcement architecture for digital rights management, wherein the architecture enforces rights in protected digital content, the architecture comprising:

a content server communicatively coupled to a network for distributing the digital content over the network;

a license server for issuing at least one digital license corresponding to and separate from the digital content, the license server being communicatively coupled to the network for issuing the at least one digital license over the network; and

a computing device communicatively coupled to the network for receiving the distributed digital content and for receiving any digital license corresponding to the digital content, the computing device also having:

a memory for storing any digital license corresponding to the digital content;

a rendering application for attempting to render the digital

content; and

a Digital Rights Management (DRM) system for being invoked by the rendering application upon such rendering application attempting to render the digital content, the DRM system for determining whether a right to render the digital content in the manner sought exists based on any digital license stored in the computing device and corresponding to the digital content;

wherein the license server issues a digital license to a DRM system only if the license server trusts such DRM system to abide by the license, and

wherein the content server distributes the digital content in an encrypted form, and wherein the DRM system includes a trusted black box for performing decryption and encryption functions for such DRM system.

70. (Once Amended) The architecture of claim 56, wherein the black box includes a unique public / private key pair for performing the decryption and encryption functions.

74. (Once Amended) The architecture of claim 56, wherein the black box includes a version number.

76. (Once Amended) The architecture of claim 56, wherein the black box includes a certifying authority signature as provided by an approved certifying

authority.

78. (Once Amended) The architecture of claim 56, wherein each digital license corresponding to the digital content includes a description of the rights conferred by the license, and wherein the DRM system includes a trusted license evaluator for evaluating the rights description and allowing rendering of the digital content by the rendering application only if such rendering is in accordance with the rights description of the license.

83. (Once Amended) An enforcement architecture for digital rights management, wherein the architecture enforces rights in protected digital content, the architecture comprising:

an authoring tool for authoring the digital content in a form amenable to the architecture;

a content server for receiving the digital content from the authoring tool and distributing the digital content; and

a license server for issuing at least one digital license corresponding to and separate from the digital content, wherein a computing device receives the distributed digital content and receives and stores any digital license corresponding to the digital content, the computing device having a rendering application for rendering the digital content; and a Digital Rights Management (DRM)

system for being invoked by the rendering application upon such rendering application attempting to render the digital content, the DRM system for determining whether a right to render the digital content in the manner sought exists based on any digital license stored in the computing device and corresponding to the digital content,

wherein the license server issues a digital license to a DRM system only if the license server trusts such DRM system to abide by the license, and

wherein the content server distributes the digital content in an encrypted form, wherein the DRM system includes a trusted black box for performing decryption and encryption functions for such DRM system, wherein the black box includes a unique public / private key pair for performing the decryption and encryption functions, and wherein the license server issues each digital license in response to a license request from the DRM system, the license request including the black box public key, the license server encrypting at least a portion of the digital license according to the black box public key prior to issuance of such license, thereby binding such license to such black box.

98. (Once Amended) The architecture of claim 83, wherein the content server distributes the digital content in an encrypted form, wherein each digital license corresponding to the digital content includes a decryption key that decrypts the encrypted digital content, and wherein the license server encrypts the decryption key in the license according to the black box public key.

100. (Once Amended) The architecture of claim 83, wherein the black box includes a version number, and wherein the license server issues each digital license in response to a license request from the DRM system, the license request including the version number of the black box, the license server determining prior to issuance of the license whether the version number of the black box is acceptable, the license server upon determining that the version number of the black box is not acceptable refusing to issue the license until the black box is updated, the architecture further comprising a black box server for providing an updated black box to the DRM system.

101. (Once Amended) The architecture of claim 83, wherein the black box includes a certifying authority signature as provided by an approved certifying authority, and wherein the license server issues each digital license in response to a license request from the DRM system, the license request including the certifying authority signature, the license server determining prior to issuance of the license whether the certifying authority signature is valid.

102. (Once Amended) The architecture of claim 83, wherein each digital license corresponding to the digital content includes a description of the rights conferred by the license, and wherein the DRM system includes a trusted license

evaluator for evaluating the rights description and allowing rendering of the digital content by the rendering application only if such rendering is in accordance with the rights description of the license.

106. (Once Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for implementing a method for enforcing rights in protected digital content, the method comprising:

receiving digital content distributed from a content server;

receiving and storing at least one digital license issued from a license server, the at least one digital license corresponding to and separate from the digital content;

attempting to render the digital content on a rendering application in a particular manner;

invoking a Digital Rights Management (DRM) system upon such rendering application attempting to render the digital content; and

determining, by the DRM system, whether a right to render the digital content in the manner sought exists based on the at least one stored digital license corresponding to the digital content,

wherein the method comprises receiving and storing at least one digital license only if the license server trusts the DRM system to abide by the license, and

wherein the method comprises receiving the digital content in an encrypted form, and further comprises performing decryption of the digital content by way of a trusted black box of the DRM system.

120. (Once Amended) The medium of claim 106 wherein the method comprises receiving the digital content in an encrypted form, and further comprises performing decryption of the digital content by way of a trusted black box of the DRM system, the black box including a unique public / private key pair for performing the decryption.

124. (Once Amended) The medium of claim 106 wherein the method comprises receiving and storing at least one digital license in response to a license request from the DRM system, the license request including a version number of the black box, the license server determining prior to issuance of the license whether the version number of the black box is acceptable.

125. (Once Amended) The medium of claim 106 wherein the method comprises receiving and storing at least one digital license including a description of the rights conferred by the license, the method further comprising evaluating by a trusted license evaluator of the DRM system the rights description and allowing rendering of the digital content by the rendering application only if such rendering is in accordance

with the rights description of the license.

126. (Once Amended) A method for implementing digital rights management, wherein the method enforces rights in protected digital content, the method comprising:

receiving the distributed digital content at the computing device;
attempting to render the digital content by way of a rendering application;

invoking, by the rendering application, a Digital Rights Management (DRM) system upon such rendering application attempting to render the digital content;

determining, by the DRM system, whether a right to render the digital content in the manner sought exists based on any digital license stored in the computing device and corresponding to the digital content; and

if the right does not exist:

requesting from a license server a digital license that provides such right and that corresponds to and is separate from the digital content;

receiving, by the computing device, the issued digital license corresponding to the digital content from the license server; and

storing the received digital license on the computing device,
the method further comprising employing a trusted black box in the

DRM system to perform decryption and encryption functions for such DRM system, wherein the black box includes a public / private key pair, and wherein requesting the digital license comprises including in the request the black box public key, wherein the license server encrypts at least a portion of the digital license according to the black box public key prior to issuance of such license, thereby binding such license to such black box.

138. (Once Amended) The method of claim 126 comprising receiving the digital content in an encrypted form and receiving the digital license including a decryption key that decrypts the encrypted digital content, the decryption key being encrypted according to the black box public key.

140. (Once Amended) The method of claim 126 wherein the black box includes a certifying authority signature as provided by an approved certifying authority, and wherein requesting a digital license comprises including the certifying authority signature, the license server determining prior to issuance of the license whether the certifying authority signature is valid.

141. (Once Amended) The method of claim 126 wherein the issued digital license includes a description of the rights conferred by the license, and further comprising: